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The word is absent from Sweet's *Dictionary*, as is *clæsmungdrenc*, *ibid.* p. 72, 27; *woruld-fægernes*, *ibid.* p. 34, 6; the anglicized (form of Latin *fullo*) *fulwa* (*þæt is webwyrhta*), *ibid.* p. 26, 26 *widsæ*, *ibid.* p. 24, 22; *hanasang*, *ibid.* p. 4, 16. *Frëon* in the sense of 'love' is according to Sweet only poetical; but in the nearly related sense of 'caress' it is twice on record in prose, once in the glosses and another time in the *Martyrology* p. 216, 29. The gloss in question is, to be sure, absent also from Sweet's edition of the *Epinal-Erfurt-Corpus* glossaries in his *OET*. We read in the *Corp.* *Gloss. Lat.* v, 373, 8 *mulcet friad=friað* (*Erfurt*). *Epinal* concurs with *Corpus* in exhibiting *friat*. I was the first to draw attention to the A.-S. character of the interpretation in the *American Journal of Germanic Philology*, but I erred in trying to connect it with Scotch *fleece*.

A puzzling passage at first sight is the A.-S. paraphrase of Thorpe's *Ps.* 68, 3, *byð me æt þam earon/leagon wiðgangen*, rendering Latin *defecerunt oculi mei*. The psalmist is apparently made to say that eye-sight has gone from him because of his 'ears.' But, somebody may object, there is no necessity for charging the paraphraser with such an evident absurdity. Do you not know that there is an A.-S. *ear* 'sea,' and that consequently it is possible to translate 'because of the salty floods eyesight has gone from me?' I would immediately accept this explanation, were it not for the *gehhero* glossing *lacrimas* in the *Durh. Rit.* p. 40, § 8, l. 2. That *gehhero* is a phonetic change of *tehhero*, as Bouterwek (*Introduct.* to the *North. Gosp.* p. L.) would have us believe, is of course out of the question. The initial *g* can be nothing else but the short form of the prefix *ge-*, and *ehher* may answer to Skt. *açrām* as *tehher* presupposes a not recorded *\*daçrām* (cf. Noreen, *Urg. Lautl.* p. 209). The corresponding common A.-S. form of *ehher* 'tear' would then be represented by the *ear* 'tear' we meet with in the above passage of Thorpe's *Psalter*. If I be correct in this assumption, then an *ear* 'tear' will have to appear by the side of *ear* 'sea' in our A.-S. Dictionaries.

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<sup>1</sup> Kluge, *Etym. Wtb.* sub *Zähre* gives *açru*-*\*daçru* as respective Skt. forms.

## SUMMER SESSION OF THE UNIVERSITY OF GRENOBLE.

TO THE EDITORS OF MOD. LANG. NOTES,

SIRS:—The idea of establishing vacation courses for teachers of French in foreign countries was proposed to the rector of the University of Grenoble four years ago by an American who was spending his summer there, and Americans have ever since been liberal patronizers of the enterprise. The report for the session of 1901 shows in a total enrolment of two hundred and eighty-four, no less than twenty-six from the United States, which number is surpassed by only one other nationality.

Grenoble is but one of four French Universities which offer summer classes for foreigners, but in some respects the organization of the work there is unique and worthy the consideration of teachers of French who seek to combine study with summer vacation. Its location, at the base of the French Alps, has its advantages for summer residence. The session comprises four consecutive months, from July to October inclusive, but the work of each month is independent of that of the others so that the student may arrange his stay to suit the length of his vacation.

The courses are varied. Besides such classes in the language and literature as might be expected, there are lectures on French history, geography, law, economics, art and sociology, which furnish a vivid acquaintance with French business and social life, a knowledge which is scarcely less important to a teacher of French literature than the language itself.

The University of Grenoble is also unique in that it offers during the scholastic year supplementary courses in the French language for foreign students regularly matriculated. During the year 1900-1901 five Americans were enrolled for these courses.

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## I AND we.

TO THE EDITORS OF MOD. LANG. NOTES,

SIRS:—From the reference to Prof. E. T. Owen's work, *A Revision of the Pronoun*, in the leading article of the last issue of MOD. LANG. NOTES, it would naturally be inferred that Prof. Owen was totally unaware at the

time of its publication that any one before him had held that *we* is not the plural of *I*. As a matter of fact, he distinctly disclaims priority of "discovery." On p. 120 of his work, where this subject is discussed, he says: "Since reaching this view, I find it adopted by Kern and others."

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#### BRIEF MENTION.

In 1898-1900 a "Catalogue of the Dante Collection presented by Willard Fiske" to the Cornell University Library (Ithaca, N. Y.) was published. This catalogue consists of two royal octave volumes, of six hundred and six double-column pages, with a Subject Index, and is one of the most important aids ever issued for the student of Dante literature. The Compiler of this catalogue, Theodore Wesley Koch, again places indications of valuable material before the special American worker in Dante science in "A List of Danteana in American Libraries, supplementing the Catalogue of the Cornell Collection."<sup>1</sup> We have, here, twenty public libraries of the United States and one private library (that of Prof. Charles Eliot Norton of Cambridge) represented, with the text of sixty-one pages, followed by an Index of five pages. To facilitate ready reference, this supplementary collection is divided into two parts: Part i, "Dante's Works" covering the *Divina Commedia* (texts, translations, etc.), and the *Opere Minori*; Part ii, "Works on Dante," which naturally constitute the bulk of the collection. It is most gratifying to note among the special Italian texts the unique and well-known copy of 1472 (Mantua), belonging to the Lenox library of New York.

"No books exist," says the Quaritch *General Catalogue* for 1874, "with the imprint of Mantua of an earlier date than this—an undeniable fact, although the title of *Editio Princeps* of Dante may be claimed with equal right for the editions printed in the same year at Jesi and Foligno. It is, however, the rarest of the three. . . ."

Let us hope that Mr. Koch may soon be able to give us the second of his promised lists under the suggested title: "Additional list of Danteana supplementing the Cornell Col-

<sup>1</sup> Ginn and Company (for the Dante Society), 1901, Octavo, pp. 67.

lection; being titles gleaned from European libraries."

Emil Koeppel contributes the eighty-ninth number of *Quellen und Forschungen* (Strassburg, K. J. Truebner, 1901), and entitles it *Spelling-Pronunciations* (cf. *Englische-Studien*, xxx, 120). Let phonetic law and analogy work as they may, there is in the graphic appearance of the word, in its spelling, an influence that produces permanent changes in speech. The linguist has every right to insist on laws, but he is constantly learning to dispute less about the 'invariability' of one or two obvious ones, and to admit into the processes of language-change many new laws, or many old ones to places of new importance. 'Social conventions,' we are now told with a fresh emphasis, 'may influence the phonetic character of speech' (Wundt, Oertel), and what limit may be set to such conventions! Not wholly unrelated to them is the fashion to pronounce occasionally as one spells. The greatest wonder of all is that even an occasional lapse into rectitude is possible in a language that has allowed an uncompromising estrangement between the spoken and the written word. If, after having learned to spell the English language, there is still left a trace of an active impulse to reason from sound to symbol, does it not argue the persistence of the age of miracles? But this trace of an elastic power does not only survive in sporadic manifestations, but it is also supposed by some thoughtful people to furnish the best means for the inauguration of an orthographic reformation. 'Let us stop quarrelling with our spelling,' they would say, 'and let us begin to pronounce as we spell.' The suggestion has value, for this rule has always to some extent been observed; Koeppel would otherwise not have had occasion to write his book. But, on the other hand, Koeppel's pages show the inevitable restrictions of the rule. Only in the case of a short list of words could the 'common consent of mankind,' be gained to favor 'spelling-pronunciation;' the list would hardly pass the present limits of permissible variations in pronunciation (either standard or provincial). Many common words have come to be pronounced in conformity to the letter, such as *theatre, language, banquet, corps, fault*; and the history of such facts is here carefully presented. This history is instructively interest-